

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONROVIA 0637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LI, KN, KS

SUBJECT: LIBERIAN/NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: MONROVIA 0340; STATE 14833

1. MOON, CHARGE AT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY HERE, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR AFTERNOON MONDAY, JANUARY 28, TO REPORT MOST RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON SUBJECT MATTER. ACCORDING MOON, GOL HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT MISSION IN PYONGYANG--FONMIN DENNIS STATES MATTER IS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION WITH NO DECISION REACHED. EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS IS PROBABLY FACTUAL. ALSO ACCORDING MOON, DENNIS STATED QUITE OPENLY GOL WOULD VERY LIKELY POSTPONE FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD EXCHANGE OF MISSIONS IF ROK WOULD SWEETEN ASSISTANCE POT. DENNIS APPARENTLY VOICED STRONG HOPE SOUTH KOREANS COULD INCREASE NUMBER OF DOCTORS--THERE NOW THREE SOUTH KOREAN DOCTORS HERE--OR PROVIDE SOME OTHER FORM ASSISTANCE.

2. IN PERSONAL AND PRIVATE ASIDE, MOON SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER ITS PRIORITIES AND DECIDE HOW IMPORTANT LIBERIA IS IN THEIR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE BELIEVES IF SOUTH KOREANS DO NOT COME UP WITH SOME SORT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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GOL AND NORTH KOREANS WILL GO AHEAD TO ESTABLISH MORE FORMAL

DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGE. HE ALSO BELIEVES THAT NORTH KOREANS WILL OPEN SMALL MISSION HERE WHETHER OR NOT GOL RECIPROCATES.

3. IN CONSIDERING VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES FOR KOREAN TA, AMBASSADOR AND CHARGE EXAMINED POSSIBILITY OF DOCTORS, AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS, PARTICULARLY IN RICE, SOME PORTION OF STAFF FOR TECHNICAL/VOCATIONAL SCHOOL TO WHICH TOLBERT REFERRED IN RECENT STATE OF UNION MESSAGE AND FISHERIES EXPERTS. MOON SAID DOCTORS WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT, AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS LESS SO ALTHOUGH RICE GROWING HERE VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN KOREA, AND SEEMED MUCH TAKEN WITH POSSIBILITY OF FISHERIES SPECIALISTS. HE ALSO APPEARED INTERESTED IN IDEA VOCATIONAL TRAINERS.

4. AMBASSADOR AGREED TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH DENNIS AT APPROPRIATE OCCASION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE HOWEVER WE SHOULD ASK FOR APPOINTMENT FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE KOREAN QUESTION. WE FEEL INFORMAL CONVERSATION WHEN OPPORTUNITY ARISES, AS IT INEVITABLY WILL IN NEXT FEW DAYS, WILL BE MORE PRODUCTIVE.

5. MOON REQUESTED EMBASSY SEOUL RAISE WITH ROK GOVERNMENT IMPORTANCE OF DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE COULD BE OFFERED. WE AGREE THIS REQUEST BELIEVING AS WE DO IT IS ONLY WAY HEAD OFF NORTH KOREAN PRESENCE HERE.
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